

Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission
Zions Bank – City Creek Center
Wednesday, April 6, 2016

MLK Attendees:, Dr. Rob Harter, Dr. Karen Johnson, Carla Kelley, Jasen Lee, Beth Martial, Ed Napia, Shawn Newell, Robert Rendon

Excused: Adrienne Andrews, Luis Garza, Lavinia Taumoepeau-Latu, Eddy Thompson

Unexcused: Dr. Forrest Crawford

Guests: Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Julie Fisher, Jenny Hor, Josh Loftin, Brian Somers

Welcome – Dr. Rob Harter

Dr. Rob Harter welcomed attendees to the meeting. Commission members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Beth Martial motioned to approve the minutes from March 2, 2016. Shawn Newell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

King Conversation Series Update – Commission Discussion

The March subcommittee rescheduled the March series to Tuesday, April 19. The event will take place from 5:30 to 7 PM in the Garden Room of the Lindquist Alumni Center at Weber State University. The series will be a panel discussion on refugee resettlement and the *Welcoming Communities* initiative. The topic was chosen because Ogden is a refugee resettlement city and has initiatives with Catholic Community Services and the Department of Workforce Services.

The June subcommittee discussed having a panel discussion at a church or community center. The panel discussion will draw from guidelines by the Southern Poverty Law Center on how to host community forums on hate crimes. Commission members also suggested having law enforcement be part of the event.

The September subcommittee discussed possibly bringing in Joan Trumpauer Mulholland. Joan participated as a Freedom Rider during the civil rights movement. She will be visiting Utah at a social studies conference in October. Her son currently resides in Utah and he produced a documentary on her life. Carla Kelley briefly met with both individuals and they expressed interest in possibly having Joan speak or screening her documentary.

The December series has been moved to early November due to the holiday season. The November subcommittee discussed having the event at Calvary Baptist Church but nothing has been confirmed. Two possible formats for the event include having informational tables or a panel discussion. Possible topics include death and dying and support for caregivers.

MLK January 2017 Event – Commission Discussion

Commission members shared their concerns about hosting an event solely by the commission due to costs and time constraints. They discussed other options for organizing an event such as partnering with another organization. Commission members discussed purchasing a table at the annual MLK luncheon hosted by the NAACP Salt Lake Branch and asking organizers to be part of the program.

Commission members also discussed participating in activities on a smaller scale. One suggestion was being featured on *Sunday Edition*, a KSL television program. Part of the segment could include a preview of MLK events in the community. Another suggestion was having a panel discussion on KUED to publicize events and to have a conversation surrounding the civil rights movement among youth. Dr. Rob Harter asked Dr. Karen Johnson and Jasen Lee to seek radio and television opportunities and to establish a panel discussion.

Commission members also shared thoughts of partnering with the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism (UServeUtah), a division within the Department of Heritage and Arts. By partnering with UServeUtah, commission members could take part in a service activity on MLK Day. Another possibility is to have commission members congratulate UServeUtah's MLK grant recipients at a kickoff event.

MOTION: Dr. Rob Harter motioned to have Shawn Newell and Robert Rendon meet with Jeanetta Williams to discuss the possibility of creating a partnership between the commission and the NAACP Salt Lake Branch regarding the branch's MLK Day luncheon. Robert Rendon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

MCA Director Recruitment – *Brian Somers*

The Department of Heritage and Arts opened up the recruitment for a director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The recruitment remains open until Sunday, May 8. Commission members were asked to share the recruitment with their contacts.

MLK Civil Rights Support License Plate – *Commission Discussion*

The commission learned of the opportunity to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Support special group license plate. Commission members would need to gather 500 applications and the associated fees before plates can be issued. The formal design process would take place after the Tax Commission receives the 500 applications. The \$35 contribution from each plate would go into the designated Martin Luther King, Jr. Support Restricted Account. This would help generate \$17,500 in funding per year.

Commission members were not certain if the plate is able to bear the image or name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. due to copyright laws. One suggestion was using the current MLK Commission logo as the plate design. Another suggestion was creating an art contest among students to design the plate logo. The winner could win a license plate and have three years of their renewal paid for by the commission.

Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program – *Beth Martial*

The Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy (UCCD) secured one of four spots within the U.S. to host the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program. Iraqi youth between the ages of 15 and 17 will be in Salt Lake City from August 2 through August 16. The students will be participating in activities and workshops around the theme of "Peacebuilding through Sports and Arts." Students will also showcase their sports and arts project at a community presentation on August 12.

The commission and community members are able to participate in two ways. Students in Utah between the ages of 15 and 17 are encouraged to apply to participate in activities alongside the Iraqi students; five of the applicants will be chosen. Additionally, UCCD is looking for host families to house the Iraqi students for the duration of the program.

Other Business

Utah now observes Juneteenth as a state holiday. Rep. Sandra Hollins sponsored the legislation which was signed into law by Governor Gary Herbert.

The Christian Center of Park City is hosting Latino Art Festival on Thursday, May 26.

Adjourn

MOTION: Robert Rendon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Karen Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Action Items

The next MLK meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2016 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the Triad Center.

Upcoming Meetings (first Wednesdays of every month in the Rio Board Room):

June 1
July 6
August 3
September 7
October 5
November 2
December 7